

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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O R 081135Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4453

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MARR PL VS

SUBJ: ICCS: POLISH REACTION TO GVN PRESS STATEMENT

REF: SAIGON 5984

1. DURING A CALL ON FONMIN BAC ON OTHER SUBJECTS, AMB DEPRECATED GVN SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF MAY 7 (REFTEL) CASTIGATING FAILURE OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELS TO INVESTIGATE SONG PHU INCIDENT OF MAY 4 IN WHICH SEVEN SCHOOL CHILDREN KILLED AND MANY CHILDREN AND ADULTS WOUNDED BY NAVA/"PRG" MORTAR ATTACK. AMB SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE NATURAL REACTION TO THIS ATROCITY, ESPECIALLY COMING SO SOON AFTER THE CAI LAY INCIDENT IN WHICH SO MANY CHILDREN MET A SIMILAR DEATH, BUT THAT EFFECT OF THIS STATEMENT CERTAINLY NOT HELPFUL.

2. FONMIN UNDERSTOOD POINT, OBSERVING THAT STATEMENT MADE WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ICCS MATTERS MINISTER INDICATED HE WAS PLANNING TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH, REFERRING TO THE SONG PHU TRAGEDY, HE WOULD ANNOUNCE GVN ACCEPTANCE OF ICCS BUDGET AS SOON AS THIS
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APPROVED BY PRES. HE WOULD TAKE THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS

GVN CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR ICCS AND HOPE THAT ICCS WOULD CARRY OUT FULLY ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTIGATIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS. HE WOULD DENOUNCE THE NVA/"PRG" FOR ITS WANTON ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS BUT WOULD NOT OF COURSE REFER TO GVN FEELINGS ABOUT POOR PERFORMANCE OF HUNGARIAN AND POLISH TEAMS. IN THIS WAY AN AUTHORITATIVE RATIONAL STATEMENT WOULD REPLACE THE EMOTIONAL "SHOT FROM THE HIP" OF THE GVN SPOKESMAN.

3. AMB DAVIES MAY WISH TO USE THIS INFORMATION IN DISCUSSING GVN MAY 7 STATEMENT, IF THIS RAISED WITH HIM BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. AMB DAVIES MAY ALSO WISH MAKE THE POINT THAT, WHILE WE TRY TO SEE THE POLISH POINT OF VIEW ON INVESTIAGATIONS, WE FIND IT QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN THE FAILURE OF THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTI-GATIONS OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT AT SONG PHY. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ICCS TO INVESTIGATE IMMEDIATELY EVERY LITTLE INCIDENT THAT OCCURS, BUT IN A CASE LIKE THIS WHERE THE POLES MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT IN A REPETITION OF THE CAI LAY AFFAIR, SUCH AS HAPPENDED AT SONG PHU, THE GVN WOULD ATTACH ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO A QUICK INVESTIAGTION, NO CLEVER LEGALISM CAN SATISFACTORILY EXPLAIN INACTION. THE FAILURE OF THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN TEAMS IN THE ICCS TO TRAVEL THE TWENTY MILES TO SONG PHU, IF ONLY TO OBSERVE THE SCENE AND EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THE BEREAVED AND THE WOUNDED, COULD ONLY BE INTERPRETED BY GVN AS CALLOUS INDIFFERENCE TO THEIR DEEPEST FEELINGS.

MARTIN

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